

Stroud Urban District Council.

37th

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1910.

STROUD :

Printed by **HARRY HARMER**, at the "Stroud News" Office, George Street.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Stroud Urban District Council.*

Stroud, Glos.
25th January, 1911.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present herewith the 37th Annual Report of your Medical Officer of Health, being the ninth made by myself.

The year under review has been marked by comparative absence of sunshine and by excessive rainfall: while the general effect has been depressing, the mortality statistics for the year do not show any deleterious results: on the contrary the equable temperature and moisture appear to have suited old people and infants as the numbers of deaths of persons over 65 years and under one year have been considerably below the average.

Important matters with respect to water supply, and the disposal of sewage and house refuse have been under your consideration during 1910, and it is hoped that during the present year further practical results may follow, more particularly with reference to the increased storage for water proposed at the upper reservoirs, to the provision of a refuse destructor, and the revision of the bye-laws.

The Local Government Board issued several orders and memoranda during the year of considerable importance in public health administration: amongst these are:—

1. The Diphtheria (outside London) Antitoxin Order 1910, authorising the provision of antitoxin for curative as well as prophylactic purposes.

2. Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, prescribing details of administration for the systematic inspection of houses required by the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

3. The Sanitary Officers (outside London) Order 1910, with respect to the appointment and duties of Medical Officers of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances.

4. Instructions to Medical Officers of Health with respect to the weekly return of the number of notified cases of infectious disease to be made to the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer.

All of these tend to improve sanitary administration and to increase the duties of your officers,

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. MIDDLETON MARTIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer's Report

1910.

GENERAL.

The Stroud Urban District comprises an area of 1,169 acres, of which 21 acres are inland water, with a population of 9,153 at the Census of 1901. It is situated in the Frome Valley where four smaller valleys join the main valley, and includes two civil parishes, Stroud and Uplands: the former is about five times larger in area and in population than the latter. The greater part of the population of Stroud live in houses built on the shoulder and slopes of the hill between the Horns Valley and the Slad Valley, while the chief inhabited part of Uplands is the southern face of the hill between the Slad and Painswick Valleys. The configuration of the District is very varied, and the elevation ranges from 150 feet O.D. to over 650 O.D., the hill-sides being very steep.

On the slopes of the hills all geological structures of the Jurassic series are exposed with the exception of the lowest.

The town is the centre of important industries, including the manufacture of woollen cloths and carpet factories, dye-houses, breweries, flour mills, iron foundries, pin, umbrella and stick factories, etc., while in the town itself are large ready made clothing factories, from which a considerable amount of home work is still given out: these provide employment for some thousands of hands who reside in Stroud and the neighbourhood.

HOUSING.

Up to recent times the material used for the construction of houses was local stone for both walls and roofs, and their substantial character is evidenced by the sound condition of the majority at the present time, which compares favourably with those houses built more recently of brick and roofed with slate. The houses in the upper part of the town are built closely together and, partly owing to

the peculiar configuration of the district, have comparatively little garden ground: in the newer parts, e.g., in Uplands, nearly every house has a fair sized garden. As a whole there is little evidence of overcrowding of persons in houses: the average number of persons per house fell from 4.81 in 1891 to 4.57 in 1901, and there were in the latter year 95 unoccupied houses. Individual cases of overcrowding are however found from time to time, an average of 2 to 3 being discovered and abated each year.

As mentioned in my previous reports, the Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act 1909 not only modifies the procedure in dealing with unhealthy houses, but also re-enacts the statutory obligation on local authorities to make a systematic inspection of their districts: this duty was emphasised in a memorandum of the Local Government Board (3rd September, 1910) which accompanied the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910. On receipt of these regulations I made a full report to you on the powers of Local Authorities with respect to housing, and presented forms for use in connection with same: finally, book forms were adopted and the Sanitary Inspector was designated the Inspecting Officer under Article II of the Order, on the 19th October, 1910. It was also decided that the area to receive early attention should be the upper part of the Town. By the end of the year records had been made of the condition of 80 houses: 40 defects requiring notices were found. The defective conditions were in part structural and in part due to the unsatisfactory class of tenant, of which a section is found in every community: amongst the conditions noted is unsatisfactory privy accommodation, many instances of only one closet—frequently flushed by hand—to 2 and 3 houses being noted, with as a natural sequel filthy pans and some difficulty in fixing the responsibility for the nuisance. The powers given by Section 39 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 in force in this District will be very useful in dealing with this matter, and by means thereof con-

siderable improvement should be effected. A difficulty will be experienced later on in the identification of houses, owing to the want of systematic numbering: thus, in many cases—particularly where houses are owned by occupiers—there will be nothing to identify the houses except the locality. Systematic numbering would render classification and identification simple and would be useful in other ways. Some work in connection with numbering was done some years ago and the matter was again considered by the Streets and Lighting Committee on the 12th January but was adjourned.

WATER SUPPLY.

A fairly full account of the improvements in the water supply of the Town made during recent years was given in my last Annual Report: these include a considerable extension of the gathering area, new pumping machinery at Gainey's Well, new mains in various parts and rendering of the reservoir on the Gainey's Well supply. The yield at the upper reservoirs was greatly increased during 1910, in part due to the heavy and persistent rainfall for the year and in part to the extension of the collecting area: for the second year in succession it was found unnecessary to pump from Gainey's Well to the upper reservoirs. The records of the amount of water available at these reservoirs show that—at any rate during such seasons as that of the past year—increased means of storage would prove of great advantage in improving the resources of the Town: observations have been taken with a view to the construction of a new reservoir a site for which has been provisionally obtained. During 1910 a new 6in. main was laid from the covered reservoir to the bottom of Parliament Street in continuation of the main mentioned in my last report. The supply cannot be considered completely satisfactory for a town of the size and importance of Stroud until a constant service is available: the quality of the water has been commented on by the County Analyst as favourably as in past years.

The average yearly profit (1901-1910) from the water undertaking has been £787 7s. 3d., including in the expenses the costs of the improvements effected during these years.

Minor matters which have received attention and were completed during the year are the supply of four houses at the Knapp, Nelson Street, and the Victoria Inn, Dudbridge, from the town mains.

MILK SUPPLY AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of dairies on the Register (22) has been increased by two, while the numbers of bake-houses (17) and slaughter-houses (9) are the same as in 1909.

As stated in previous reports the greater part of the milk consumed in the Town is sold direct from carts coming from outside farms: the milk stores in the Town were described in my last Report and there is no change to record beyond the opening of the two stores above mentioned, one of which is a dairy shop only and the other was a milk store re-opened: the former is as well adapted for the purpose as is possible in a confined situation in the centre of the Town. One prosecution was taken by the County Council during the year in a case where abstraction of fat to the extent of 13 per cent. was alleged, but evidence was brought that the milk was sold as received and the defendant was acquitted.

Forty-eight visits were paid during the year to the nine slaughter-houses.

FOODS CONDEMNED.

The only food stuffs condemned during 1910 were a few vegetables and some fruits.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A general description of the sewerage of the Town and of the disposal works was given in my report for last year. The heavy rainfall of 1910 combined with the steep gradients of the hillsides put a heavy strain on some of the sewers, and caused two to burst, one at Arundel's Mill and one in Glou-

cester Street: the damage was made good in both cases, but suggestions made by the Surveyor to effect alterations for the permanent relief of the former could not be carried out for certain reasons.

The drainage of the group of houses—about 38—in Bisley Road and Horns Road mentioned in my previous report was settled during 1910 by the laying of a sewer with two man holes by the District Council at a cost of about £60. There is but little doubt that the drains in question were laid by the owners for the benefit of their own property and not for the convenience of the public and they were regarded by the Council as “single private drains”: owing, however, to the contrary legal decisions on the vexed question of what is a sewer and what a private drain, it was finally decided that the whole cost should be borne by the Council. This difficulty has been the cause of the introduction of special clauses into the private Acts of various corporations for their own protection, and it would appear most desirable that the matter should be settled by Parliament once for all as far as practicable for the whole of the country.

The disposal works were relieved early in the year by the diversion from the sewers of the cooling water at a large brewery (estimated at about 150,000 gallons per day), but the excessive rainfall greatly increased the volume of the sewage to be treated at the works. As mentioned in my previous report some complaint had been made of nuisance from the works which was groundless, but as a result of this and a visit from an Engineering Inspector the Council were requested by the Local Government Board in December 1909 to take the re-construction of the works into consideration. It has long been recognised that the effluent was not satisfactory and occasionally—as in June, 1910—it was the subject of complaint at the point of discharge into the stream below a cloth mill: but the area of land available is so closely restricted owing to the steady extension of the refuse tip that—until the latter

can be removed—the re-construction of the works to bring them up to modern requirements is almost impracticable. During the latter part of the year, however, the Surveyor commenced the re-construction whereby the existing tank capacity is greatly increased, and the tank effluent can be treated on modern filters as soon as the land lower down can be freed of the refuse tip. The alterations so far effected include:

1. Two grit chambers.
2. Sludge chamber with fixed pump.
3. Deepening of the northern tanks (the southern set will be completed as soon as weather conditions allow).
4. Raising the walls of the western divisions of the tanks.

Further, by means of various sluices the sludge can be drained, by gravitation, from the settling tanks through the grit chambers to the sludge chamber, without emptying the tanks or grit chambers: in this way, sludging can be done frequently without interfering with the flow through the tanks which formerly had to be emptied of liquid before the sludge could be removed by a travelling pump. Pending the construction of filters the quantity of precipitating agent (Alumino-ferric) has been increased. The general result up to the present is that the appearance of the effluent has been greatly improved and it is hoped that, when the present work has been completed, the improvement will be permanent. The District Council recognise that when practicable modern filters must be provided and have resolved that filters and storm tanks shall be laid down as soon as the ground is cleared of refuse.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Considerable attention has been given to the matter of draining the Cainscross portion of the Urban District: letters have been received from the Local Government Board and further negotiations have been carried on with the Rural District Council with respect to a joint scheme. There is now a suggestion

that the properties in question shall be drained by the Rural District Council to their disposal works at Ebley and that the Urban District Council shall pay a proportion of the cost and also a fixed rate on property so drained: this is the reverse of the proposal mentioned in my last report. I understand that the work necessary will be executed as soon as possible.

A complaint of nuisance at the point of discharge of the sewage effluent into the Frome was received in June from the owners of the mill under which the effluent is discharged, but no nuisance was found on the occasion of various visits except slight smell on one day. The alterations at the disposal works, effected and proposed in the latter part of the year, have been noted in the last paragraph.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

With few exceptions, the type of privy in use throughout the whole district is the water closet: it has been estimated that 50 per cent. of the closets are hand flushed and as a result of this many are found in a very foul condition. The trouble is increased by the instances in which one closet serves two and three houses, and is a matter which requires early consideration.

HOUSE REFUSE.

The system of collection and disposal was described in my last report, when it was mentioned that the provision of a destructor was under consideration. At the last meeting of the Council it was resolved to obtain a destructor and to instruct the Sub-Committee to report as to the best form for this district and as to the cost.

My predecessor in 1884 observed that "The land adjoining (the sewage works) should not be covered with such an immense heap of town refuse, consisting of ashes, animal and vegetable matter, etc., which will be in time a great nuisance to the public and trouble to the Board": in 1895 the "re-

“removal of the refuse heap by means of a “destructor” was advocated. The trouble and difficulty have steadily increased, and it would appear that these can be removed only by the provision of a suitable destructor: the expense of dealing with the refuse must necessarily be increased, but in return there will be the removal of a source of nuisance and the freeing of the land for the purposes of sewage disposal as well as a certain amount of power for pumping if a steam boiler is laid down.

NUISANCES.

The average number of nuisances abated annually during the past nine years has been 130, but that the average number of statutory notices is only six shows that in the great majority of cases the Inspector has been successful in securing prompt remedies.

With a view to minimising nuisance from road dust, the Council sprayed the main road on two sides of the Town for rather more than a mile at a cost of £66 2s. 3d., or about 7½d. per lineal yard and a fraction under a penny per square yard.

BYE-LAWS AND PREMISES COMING UNDER THEM.

The existing bye-laws with respect to new buildings are the stringent series for Urban Districts adopted in June, 1889. Their amendment has been under contemplation since 1907, and might with advantage be settled at an early date. Matters which might be dealt with more particularly are (1) the provision of proper means of flushing for all water closets, (2) the paving of yards, etc., and (3) the height of rooms.

Other bye-laws in force in the District relate to Nuisances, Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter-houses and Offensive Trades. There are five common lodging houses: one is new and suitably built for the purpose and the rest are old houses. They are on the whole well managed and kept fairly clean, but the older premises are not entirely satisfactory. Of the nine slaughter-houses four are

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	5	3	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	37	6	
Workplaces ...	5		
TOTAL ...	47	9	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	5	5		
Want of ventilation ...				
Other nuisances... ..	5	5		
Sanitary accommodation, unsuitable or defective				
TOTAL ...	10	10		

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Home Work: Lists received, 6; Outworkers, 268; No. of Addresses received from other Councils, 8; ditto forwarded to other Councils, 136; Notified by H.M. Inspector, 2;

Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector, 2.

Registered Workshops: Tailors, 25; Bakers, 19; Milliners and Dressmakers, 16; Various, 41; Total, 101.

registered and five licensed. The only offensive trade carried on in the district is tripe-boiling, which is done on a small scale in two places: no complaints concerning them have been received for several years. Regulations with respect to dairies, etc., were adopted in 1906.

SCHOOLS.

As mentioned in previous reports the Medical Inspection of Children attending Public Elementary Schools is carried out by officials directly under the Gloucestershire Education Committee, but there is a constant inter-communication between the School Medical Officer and Medical Officers of Health particularly with respect to infectious conditions. Information is also sent to Medical Officers of Health as to children whose neglected condition appears to indicate that their homes require attention: the names of seven such children were received during 1910, and on investigation five cases were such as to need cleansing, etc.

Owing to outbreaks of measles the closure of the following schools was approved by the School Medical Officer for the periods named:

Uplands Council Mixed—10 January to 17 January.

Uplands Council Infants—10 January to 7 February.

Castle Street Infants—20 January to 21 February.

Parliament Street Infants—31 January to 28 February.

Beeches Green R.C.—18 February to 7 March.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 118 workshops in the district, particulars of which are given in the accompanying form. The number of outworkers in the district is large and was 134 during 1910: these are employed by the ready made clothing factories.

During the year at the request of the Office of Trades Boards, leaflets were distributed amongst outworkers drawing their attention

to the formation of a Trade Board with respect to ready made and wholesale bespoke tailoring. Early in the year an enquiry was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories as to any system whereby employers are notified of cases of infectious disease occurring in the homes of outworkers: this information is sent as necessary to employers either by myself or by the Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The numbers of cases of infectious disease notified each year since the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, was adopted (May, 1892) are given in the following Table A.

The numbers notified and removed to Hospital, and the numbers of deaths during 1910 are:—

	Stroud	Upl'nds	T'tal	Removed to H'spital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	7	—	7	6	—
Diphtheria	5	2	7	5	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	2	—	—
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	1	—	1	—	1
	—	—	—	—	—
	16	2	18	11	1

Five of the cases of scarlet fever occurred in the month of July, three of the patients being young adults—a somewhat unusual occurrence. No special cause could be found for any one of the cases, six of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital. The seven cases of diphtheria were spread over four months, two occurring in one house: all but one were taken to the Hospital where two yielded negative bacteriological results.

An important Order was issued by the Local Government Board in September, 1910, sanctioning the provision of diphtheria antitoxin by local authorities for curative as well as prophylactic purposes: on receipt of this the Urban Council resolved to provide antitoxin for both purposes and in accordance with my instructions I sent a circular letter to medical practitioners informing them of the arrangements that had been made.

TABLE A.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever	Small Pox	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Total
1892	19	1		7				27
1893	25	3	22	10	1	23		84
1894	23	2	4	2		8		39
1895	8	1		3				12
1896	4	3	4	3	1	1		16
1897	9	5	3	3				20
1898	23	7	3	12	1			46
1899	40	11	3	9				63
1900	174	9	16	5	1			205
1901	56	6	2	12				76
1902	29	4	1	1				35
1903	3	1		7				11
1904	11	1	3	9				24
1905	4			12				16
1906	8	10	2	6	2			28
1907	5	5	1	3				14
1908	4	9	1	3				17
1909	3	6	3	2			7	21
1910	7	7	1	2			1	18

The girl who had Typhoid Fever was probably infected in another part of the County.

On the occurrence of a few cases of plague in the Eastern Counties the Local Government Board issued in November circulars and memoranda, together with a valuable account of the symptoms and method of spread of the disease and measures against it by their Medical Officer, copies of which were sent to all medical practitioners in this neighbourhood.

Measles was prevalent in the first two months of the year and led to the closure of the five schools named above. The first—Uplands Council Mixed, which was closed for a week only—and the last—Beeches Green R.C., which is one of the smaller schools—include older children, while the remaining three are infants' schools only. In this District therefore the instruction of older children was not seriously interrupted owing to the prevalence of measles amongst infants, but in the surrounding district this interruption necessarily occurred to a serious extent owing to lack of authority for excluding infants and younger children only without loss of "grant."

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospitals for the district are those under the control of the Stroud Joint Hospital Board. The small-pox hospital, opened in 1896, is at Bisley, and that for other infectious diseases, opened in December, 1904, at Cainscross. The proportion of cases moved since January, 1905, is scarlet fever 87.1, diphtheria 86.5, and typhoid fever 62.5 per cent.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population estimated for the year preceding the Census must be of very uncertain accuracy, no matter what care be taken to make such corrections as are practicable: it is impossible to gauge the changes that may have occurred in a period of 10 years, and it is more than probable that extensive corrections must be made in the rates I have given

in this and the eight previous reports when the Census figures are available. The rates this year are calculated on a total population of 8,614 at the middle of the year. For the reasons given above, it is better not to regard the birth rate and death rate as strictly correct.

BIRTHS.

The actual number of births was 179—96 males and 83 females—the largest number registered since 1907: the rate 20.8 is the same as that in 1907 and is the highest since 1901 when it was 23.3. The average for the 10 years (1900-9) is 20.05. The changes in the birth rate since 1875 are shown in Table B, from which it will be seen that the rate has steadily fallen from 33.0 (1875-1880) to 19.6 (1906-1910), i.e., a decrease in the birth rate of 42.2 per cent. in 35 years. The decline of the rate for England and Wales was from 35.3 (1876-1880) to 28.1 (1901-1905). Of the total births, seven (all in Stroud) or 3.9 per cent. were illegitimate; the percentage is below the average of the previous eight years, 5.96.

The comparative rates in the two constituent parishes are given in Table C.

TABLE B.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
1875-1880	33.0	21.6	161
1881-1885	30.85	18.9	152
1886-1890	27.1	15.3	127
1891-1895	24.8	16.1	136
1896-1900	22.8	15.0	135
1901-1905	20.3	13.9	108
1906-1910	19.6	14.4	103

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the district (154) is the lowest since 1904 (126): 65 of these occurred in the Union Workhouse (42), General Hospital (23), and one was that of a Stonehouse boy of fifteen who committed suicide on the Great Western Railway in Stroud. Forty-six of these 66 were of persons belonging to surrounding districts. One person belonging to this district died in the County Asylum.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONG- ING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	9,198	204	22.2	30	147	207	22.5	76	43		164	17.8
1901	9,134	213	23.3	23	108	181	19.8	64	50		131	14.3
1902	9,071	161	18.1	26	159	176	19.4	68	44	4	136	15.0
1903	9,017	181	20.1	16	88	161	17.9	55	30	3	134	14.9
1904	8,954	178	19.9	17	95.5	126	14.1	43	27	5	104	11.6
1905	8,895	179	20.1	17	95	174	19.6	72	57	4	121	13.6
1906	8,838	180	20.4	16	89	176	19.9	74	48	6	134	15.2
1907	8,779	183	20.8	16	87	162	18.5	56	39	8	131	14.9
1908	8,726	157	18.0	17	108	163	18.7	70	47	5	121	13.9
1909	8,668	154	17.8	25	162	190	21.9	87	64	6	132	15.2
Average for years 1900- 1909	8,923	179	20.05	20	112	172	19.3	67	45	5	131	14.7
1910	8,614	179	20.8	14	78	154	17.9	66	46	1	109	12.7

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, should be calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,148. Total population at all ages, 9,153.

Number of inhabited houses, 2,003. Average number of persons per house, 4.57. (At Census of 1901).

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District : { Stroud Union Workhouse { Gloucester County Asylum.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District : { Gloucester Royal Infirmary. { Stroud General Hospital.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—Yes.

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1910 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1.—WHOLE DISTRICT.				2.—STROUD.				3.—UPLANDS.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Births registered.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Births registered.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
1900	9,198	204	161	30	7,726	142	26	170	1,472	22	4	4
1901	9,134	213	131	23	7,652	115	20	172	1,482	16	3	3
1902	9,071	164	136	26	7,579	118	23	135	1,492	18	3	3
1903	9,017	181	134	16	7,513	119	15	146	1,504	15	1	1
1904	8,954	178	104	17	7,440	93	16	152	1,514	11	1	1
1905	8,895	179	121	17	7,370	104	13	148	1,525	17	4	4
1906	8,838	180	134	16	7,302	120	14	157	1,536	14	2	2
1907	8,779	183	131	16	7,233	112	13	155	1,546	19	3	3
1908	8,726	157	121	17	7,169	112	17	144	1,557	9	0	0
1909	8,668	154	132	25	7,100	112	21	131	1,568	20	4	4
Average of Years 1900 to 1909	8,928	179	131	20	7,408	115	18	151	1,520	16	2.5	2.5
1910	8,614	179	109	14	7,034	91	10	149	1,580	18	4	4

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1910.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					STROUD.	UPLANDS.	HOSPITAL.	W. HOLSE.	STROUD.	UPLANDS.	TOTAL.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.							
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ...	7	1	2	2	2		5	2			4	1	5
Erysipelas ...	2				2		2						
Scarlet Fever ...	7		4	2	1		7				6		6
Enteric Fever ...	1			1			1						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1				1		1						
Totals ...	18	1	6	5	6		16	2			10	1	11

Isolation Hospital—Stroud Joint Isolation Hospitals, Cainscross and Bisley.

SCHEDULE B.—Stroud Urban District Council, 1910.

Causes of Death.	All Ages	Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65	65 and upwards	Stroud.	Uplands	Work-house.	Hospit'l	In Public Institutions.
Measles	1	1						1				
Epidemic Influenza	1						1	1				
Whooping-cough	1	1						1				
Enteritis	1	1						1				
Tuberculosis of Meninges	1		1					1				
Tuberculosis of Lungs	8	1			4	3		6	2	1		1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2				1	1		2			1	
Cancer	14					7		11	3	7	3	6
Premature Birth	1	1						1				
Developmental Diseases	6	6						3	3	1		1
Old Age	10						10	9	1	10		8
Meningitis	1		1					1			1	
Inflammation and Softening of Brain	1					1		1				
Organic Diseases of Heart	7					5		7		8	1	8
Acute Bronchitis	3						3	3				
Chronic Bronchitis	2						2	2		2		
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia	1					1		1				
Lobular (Broncho-) Pneumonia... ..	2		1				1	1	1		1	
Diseases of Stomach											1	1
Obstruction of Intestines	3			1		2		3			3	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1					1		1				
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5					4	1	4	1	1	3	3
Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	1					1			1			
Deaths by Accident or Negligence	3					2		3			1	
Deaths by Suicide											1	1
Deaths from Ill-defined Causes	7	2				3	2	6	1			
Pleurisy	1					1		1				
Apoplexy	13					5	8	9	4	8	1	7
Poisoning	1					1		1			2	1
All other Causes	11	1		1		5	4	10	1	4	5	7
ALL CAUSES	109	14	3	2	5	43	42	91	18	42	24	46

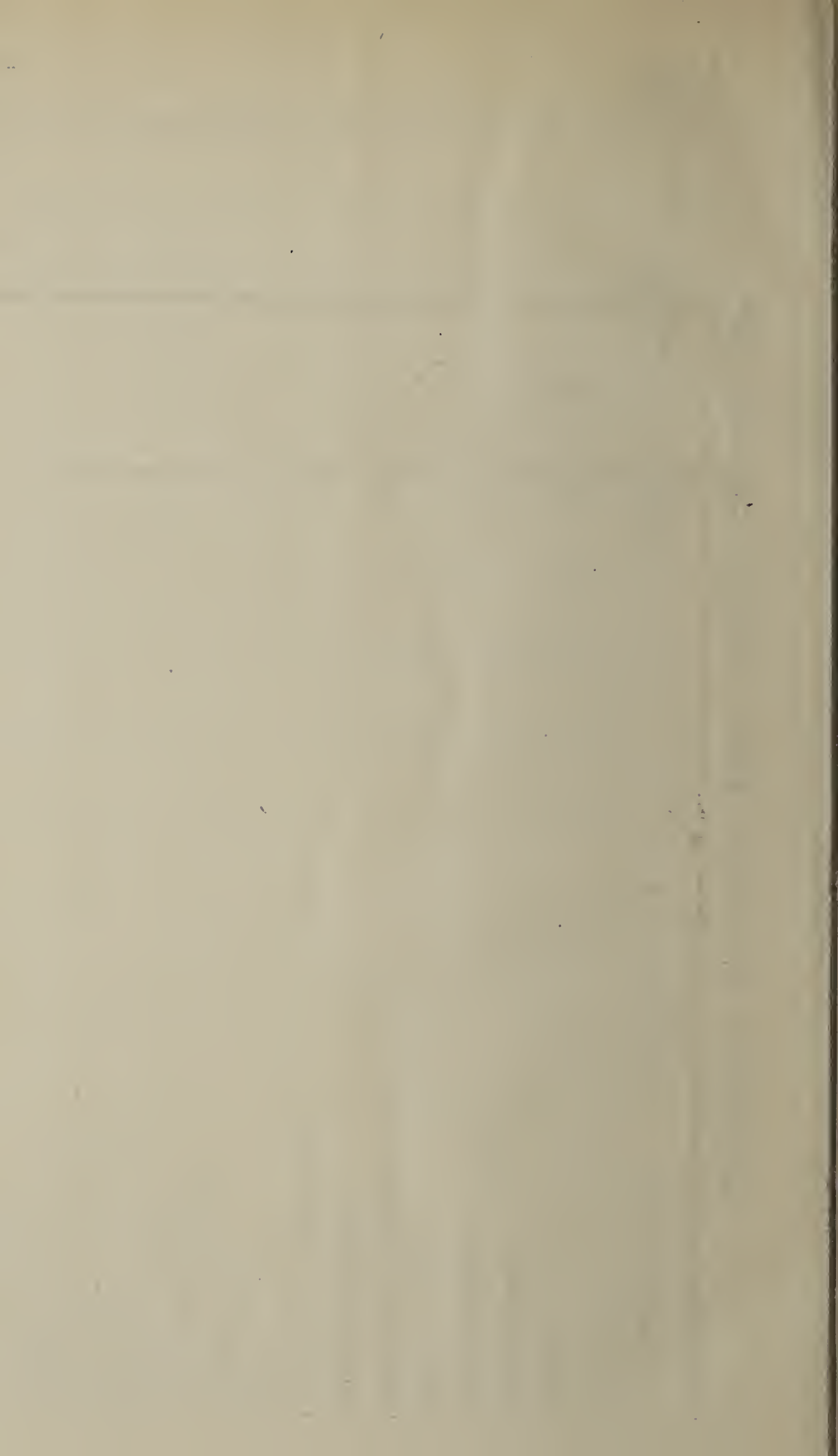


TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1910.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total deaths under One year.
ALL CAUSES. { Certified { Uncertified ..	4	1			5	2	3	1			1	1			1		14
Measles															1		1
Whooping Cough						1											1
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis							1										1
Permatute Birth	1				1												1
Congenital Defects	3	1			4												4
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus						1		1									2
Other Tuberculous Diseases																	1
Convulsions											1						2
Other Causes												1					1
TOTAL	4	1			5	2	3	1			1	1			1		14

Population estimated to middle of 1910, 8,614.

Births in the year—legitimate, 172; illegitimate, 7; total, 179;

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 14; illegitimate infants, 0—14.

Deaths from all Causes at all ages, 109.

The net deaths belonging to the district are thus 109, a rate per 1,000 of 12.7, which is the lowest recorded since 1904. The quinquennial rates since 1875 will be found in Table B, from which it will be seen that they fell steadily from 21.6 (1875-1880) to 13.9 (1901-1905): the rise to 14.4 in 1906-1910 is chiefly due to the heavy death rate in 1909, which was attributed to the comparatively large numbers of deaths under one and over sixty-five years of age. The death rate corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population is 12.3, while that for England and Wales was 13.4.

The comparative rates for the two constituent civil parishes will be found in Table C.

TABLE C.
Birth and Death Rate and Infantile Mortality
(1910) and Averages (1900-1909).

	Population	Births			Deaths			Infantile		
		Average			Average			Mortality		
	1910	1910 No.	Rate	Rate	No.	1910 Rate	Rate	No.	1910 Rate	Average Rate
Stroud	7034	149	21.2	20.4	91	12.9	15.5	10	67	119
Uplands	1580	30	19.0	18.4	18	11.4	10.5	4	133	89
Stroud U.D.	8614	179	20.8	20.05	109	12.7	14.7	14	78	112

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

One of the most satisfactory features of the statistics for 1910 is the record low number of deaths of infants under one year of age (14) and the correspondingly low infantile mortality of 78. From Table B it will be seen that this rate has fallen from 161 in 1875-1880 to 103 in 1906-1910, showing an annual saving of 58 children per 1,000 born: that is whereas formerly only 839 survived the first year, now 897 reach their first birthday.

The figures for the five years (1905-9) show that the infantile death rate in this district is the sixth highest in the county and is the same as that in Cheltenham, namely, 107 per 1,000 births. The excess of deaths occurs chiefly at ages under three months, but also at other ages. The principal causes are diarrhoeal diseases, prematurity and congenital defects, and marasmus: the first and last of these are largely influenced by methods of feeding, and it is by greater attention to the

food and care in its preparation that improvement in the infantile death rate is to be obtained. Leaflets on the Care and Management of Infants are distributed by certified midwives amongst their patients, but it is by instruction of the rising generation that the most far-reaching and lasting results will be secured. The Board of Education have recently shown their appreciation of this fact by issuing a syllabus on the subject for use in the instruction of elder girls in elementary schools. Whether associated with the mild meteorological conditions of the year or not, the rate for 1910 was distinctly lower than the average, but it is scarcely to be anticipated that the improvement will be permanent until mothers generally realise the special importance of scrupulous cleanliness and care in the management of infants.

For the first time since 1906, no one of the infants dying under the age of one year during 1910 was an illegitimate child.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

Of the total 109 deaths, 100 (93.8 per cent.) were certified by a medical practitioner: one (0.9 per cent.) was registered without an inquest—a woman of seventy-eight—and in eight cases (7.3 per cent.) inquiries were held by the Coroner. The summary of the latter is:—

NATURAL CAUSES.

Apoplexy	1	
Malnutrition	1	
Unknown	1	
Heart failure	1	4

ACCIDENTS.

Poisoning	1	
Asphyxiated		
(epileptic)	1	
Fall from lorry	1	
Fall downstairs	1	4

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The five Tables of statistics prescribed by the Local Government Board are appended herewith.

Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1910.

February, 1911.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg respectfully to again submit to you a brief summary of the work of the past year.

The number of nuisances dealt with amount to 135, and are classified as follows:—15 houses cleansed and whitewashed, 10 houses repaired, 21 houses fumigated and cleansed after infectious diseases, 2 cases of overcrowding abated, 8 dairies and milkshops whitewashed, 10 slaughter-houses whitewashed, 12 bakehouses cleaned and whitewashed, 4 cowsheds repaired and cleansed, 2 new w.c.'s built, 2 drains ventilated, 14 w.c.'s and drains unstopped, repaired and cleansed, 10 traps and old drains abolished, 6 new drains laid, 5 accumulations of manure and refuse removed, 5 lots of animals improperly kept removed or improved, 9 workrooms and workshops cleansed and repaired, and various other nuisances removed.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

As often as time and circumstances will permit these premises are visited and inspected, and no serious breach of the Bye-laws has occurred. A marked improvement has been effected in the floor at Messrs. Eastmans slaughter-house, which was both slippery and dangerous. Two changes of occupiers have taken place of which notice has now been given.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Fifty-four visits have been made at varied intervals as deemed necessary. The usual cleansing notices have been complied with and no breach of the Bye-laws has occurred.

It will, however, be necessary to effect some improvements to raise the standard, in one or two cases, to meet with more modern requirements.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

Occasional notices have been given for repairs and cleansing. Cowsheds are fairly well kept, and the cows are generally kept the greater part of the year in the open air. Milkshops in some cases, are not kept as well as can be desired.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The requirements and notices necessary under the Factories and Workshops Acts have been carried out, and 35 visits have been made. The usual outworkers' lists have been received and examined, and where necessary forwarded on to other Councils.

Cleansing notices have been served and attended to.

FOOD AND DRUG ACTS.

The administration of these Acts being carried out by the County Authorities, therefore beyond general supervision, no action has been taken.

UNSOUND FOOD.

Small quantities of Fruit were condemned, and several consignments of Vegetables were examined and condemned as unfit for food. As these were not exposed for sale no further action was necessary.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING.

The supervision of this department has been carried out as usual, the quantity removed increasing yearly. Very few complaints have been received.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

The usual number of samples were taken, and were all within the standard requirements. All premises licensed to store have been inspected.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

The number of boats inspected or re-inspected this year were 38. All in fair good order, only two minor infringements being found.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. PARSONS,

A.R.San.I.